



1 1. (Amended) A method of treating viral encephalitis in a patient,
2 comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an agent that inhibits binding of
3 leukocytes to brain endothelial cells via leukocyte surface antigen alpha-4 integrin, wherein
4 said patient is free of multiple sclerosis.

1 2. (As Filed) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is administered to the patient
2 after viral infection.

1 3. (As Filed) The method of claim 2, wherein the patient is asymptomatic.

1 4. (As Filed) The method of claim 2, wherein the patient shows symptoms of
2 encephalitis.

1 5. (As Filed) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is administered prophylactically
2 to a patient at risk of infection by a virus causing encephalitis.

1 6. (As Filed) The method of claim 1, wherein the virus is a herpes virus or an arbovirus.

1 7. (As Filed) The method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring the patient for
2 symptoms of encephalitis.

1 8. (As Filed) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent specifically binds to the alpha-4
2 as a subunit of VLA-4.

1 9. (As Filed) The method of claim 8, wherein the agent is an antibody.

1 10. (As Filed) The method of claim 9, wherein the antibody is a Fab fragment.

1 11. (As Filed) The method of claim 8, wherein the agent binds to an epitope of the alpha-4
2 subunit formed by association with a beta-1 subunit in an alpha-4 beta-1 complex and lacking in an alpha-4 beta-7
3 complex.

1 12. (As Filed) The method of claim 9, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.

1 13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the humanized antibody
2 is [a humanized form of the mouse 21.6 antibody] characterized by a light chain variable
3 domain designated SEQ. ID. No. 1 and a heavy chain variable domain designated SEQ. ID.
4 No. 2.